

REMARKS

At the time of the Office Action dated October 17, 2003, claims 2, 4 and 6 were pending. Applicant acknowledges, with appreciation, the Examiner's allowance of claims 4 and 6. Claim 2 stands rejected. Filed herewith is a petition for a 2-month extension of the period for response.

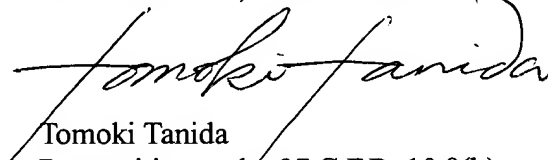
In this Amendment, claim 2 has been canceled. Therefore, Applicant submits that the rejection of claim 2 has been rendered moot by cancellation of the claim.

Accordingly, it is urged that the application is in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicant's attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

MCDERMOTT, WILL & EMERY


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Recognition under 37 C.F.R. 10.9(b)

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